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Agenda item 92

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Abdelhamid **Gharbi** (Tunisia)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled:

"Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session:

"(a) Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters;

"(b) United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research;

"(c) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;

"(d) Report of the Disarmament Commission"

was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolutions S-10/2 of 30 June 1978, 38/183 O of 20 December 1983, 39/148 H of 17 December 1984, 59/104 and 59/105 of 3 December 2004 and 60/90 and 60/91 of 8 December 2005.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 28 September 2006, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 82 to 97, which was held at the 2nd to 7th meetings, from 2 to 6 and on 9 October (see A/C.1/61/PV.2-7). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 8th to 19th meetings, from 9 to 13, from 16 to 20 and on 23 October (see A/C.1/61/PV.8-19). Action on all

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draft resolutions was taken at the 19th to 23rd meetings, on 23, from 25 to 27 and on 30 October (see A/C.1/61/PV.19-23).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament;[1]

(b) Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2006;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (A/61/297);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/61/180).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.11

5. At the 19th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of the Republic of Korea, on behalf of the members of the extended Bureau of the Disarmament Commission, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission" (A/C.1/61/L.11). Subsequently, Jamaica joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 20th meeting, on 25 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.11 without a vote[3] (see para. 9, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.29

7. At the 19th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Slovakia, on behalf of Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal and Slovakia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/61/L.29). Subsequently, Peru joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. At its 20th meeting, on 25 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/61/L.29 without a vote (see para. 9, draft resolution II).

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/61/27).

[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 42* (A/61/42).

[3] The representative of the United States of America made a statement indicating that the United States delegation would not participate in action taken on the draft resolution.

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994, 50/72 D of 12 December 1995, 51/47 B of 10 December 1996, 52/40 B of 9 December 1997, 53/79 A of 4 December 1998, 54/56 A of 1 December 1999, 55/35 C of 20 November 2000, 56/26 A of 29 November 2001, 57/95 of 22 November 2002, 58/67 of 8 December 2003, 59/105 of 3 December 2004 and 60/91 of 8 December 2005,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the validity of its decision 52/492 of 8 September 1998, concerning the efficient functioning of the Disarmament Commission;

3. *Decides* to adopt the following additional measures for improving the effectiveness of the Disarmament Commission's methods of work:

(a) The Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies should be elected at an organizational session of the Commission, if possible at least three months before the beginning of the substantive session; the regional groups should, accordingly, present their candidates as soon as possible to ensure that such elections take place within that time frame;

(b) Member States are encouraged to adopt the draft agenda of the substantive session of the Commission as early as possible at the organizational meetings of the Commission;

(c) Member States are encouraged to present their national working documents to the Commission as early as possible before the beginning of the substantive session to facilitate deliberation in the meetings ahead;

(d) The Commission should make efforts to strengthen dialogue with other bodies of the disarmament machinery of the United Nations, that is, the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament;

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/61/42).

(e) The Commission is encouraged to invite, as appropriate, experts on disarmament, including those at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, for discussions at its plenary meetings;

(f) The Secretariat is requested to improve the Commission section of the United Nations website to provide better communication and up-to-date information about the work of the Commission, and in particular to make available in a timely manner the information and documentation relevant to the Commission's deliberations;

4. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

5. *Also reaffirms* the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation between the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items on its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[3]

7. *Recommends* that the Disarmament Commission continue the consideration of the following items at its 2007 substantive session:

(a) Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) Practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons;

8. *Requests* the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding three weeks during 2007, namely from 9 to 27 April, and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[4] together with all the official records of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

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[2] Resolution S-10/2.

[3] A/CN.10/137.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/61/27).

Draft resolution II
Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[1]

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Recognizing the need to conduct multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching agreement on concrete issues,

Recalling, in this respect, that the Conference has a number of urgent and important issues for negotiation,

Taking note of active discussions held on the programme of work during the 2006 session of the Conference, as duly reflected in the report and the records of the plenary meetings,

Taking note also of increased deliberations of the Conference due to the constructive contribution of its member States, focused structured debates on all agenda items including with the participation of experts from capitals, and cooperation between all six Presidents of the Conference in the 2006 session,

Taking note further of significant contributions made during the 2006 session to promote substantive discussions on issues on the agenda, as well as of discussions held on other issues that could also be relevant to the current international security environment,

Stressing the urgent need for the Conference to commence its substantive work at the beginning of its 2007 session,

Recognizing the address of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as the addresses of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, as expressions of support for the endeavours of the Conference and its role as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

Bearing in mind the importance of efforts towards revitalization of the disarmament machinery, including the Conference,

Recognizing the importance of continuing consultations on the question of the expansion of the Conference membership,

1. *Reaffirms* the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. *Calls upon* the Conference to further intensify consultations and explore possibilities with a view to reaching an agreement on a programme of work;

3. *Takes note* of the strong collective interest of the Conference in commencing substantive work as soon as possible during its 2007 session;

4. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference to request its current President and the incoming President to conduct consultations during the intersessional period

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/61/27).

and, if possible, to make recommendations, taking into account all relevant proposals, including those submitted as documents of the Conference, views presented and discussions held, and to endeavour to keep the membership of the Conference informed, as appropriate, of their consultations, as contained in paragraph 28 of its report;[1]

5. *Requests* all States members of the Conference to cooperate with the current President and successive Presidents in their efforts to guide the Conference to the early commencement of substantive work in its 2007 session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

7. *Requests* the Conference to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".